Delhi on February 13, 1989^ suggested that agriculture should, be given priority in the Eighth Plan and efforts should be made to create jobs in the rural areas; and

(b) if so, the ac^on taken by Government en these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OP PLANNING ANd THE MINISTER OP PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The National Conference on Planning Experience was held in New Delhi on llth and 12th February, 1989. Among various issues discussed, the suggestions cf giving priority &j agricultura and creating jobs in rural areas was aiso made by some of the participants. These suggestions will be kept in view while preparing the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Gaps ln the Country's Electronics Flan

2166. SHRl KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA; Will th$_e$ PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) what are the gaps in the country's electronics plan;

(b) what are the precise programme launched by Government s$_0$ far for the development of technology within the country and what is the achievement;

(c) whether any clear cut long term policy relating to the development of capabilities in electronics technology has been laid down by the Government; if so, what are the salient features thereof; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor stating the steps contemplated by Government *o formulate a broader long term policy of maximising engineering, technological and R and D inputs *^{or} *^{n}e speedy growth of electronics industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECH NOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Government of India has constituted a study team for preparation of the 8th five year plan with a view to developing R and D capabilities in identifying thrust areas in electronics. The study team is expected to submit its report shortly.

Department of Electronics has three councils fo$_r$ identifying technology gap$_s$ and initiating efforts to bridge the same through indigenous research and development. These are; Technology Development Council (TDC), National Radar Council (NRC) and National Microelectronics Council (NMC) and Council for Development of Materials Electronics (CDOME). j TDC is responsible for technology development in the areas of computers and computer communication, control and instrumentation, consumer electronics, electronics components and voice communication. It has set up working 'groups in all these areas which identifies the technology gaps and make recommendations to TDC on undertaking specific R and D projects. NRC which is responsible for technolo ny development in radar a^{n}d allied areas ha$_s$ funded a number of projects. NMC is responsible for implementing the technology development and manufacture in the area of microelee-ronics. Nineteen projects have been initiated on the recommendations of two working group$_s$ in th$_e$ areas of computer aids for micro electronics and microelectronic technology. CDOMR has be&n recentlv crpate^ to give a thrust to and D orofflrammes for the development of materials *irt* electronics.

In additions major technology development programmes have been initiated recently in the area of parallel processing architectures for the development of computers in the super computer performance range. Centre for Development of Advanced Computing has been set up at Pune for this purpose. Centre for Development of Teelmatics is another effort for development in indigenous R and D for the devtlopn ent of digital super technology. A number of other programmes for developing technology in-c uae: —

Appropriate Automation Promotion Frogramme, Microelectronics Engineering Programme, Knowledge Based Computer System Developent Programme Society for Applied Mocrowave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER) CASE, SECO Programmes.

(c) and (d) As mentioned above there is constant effort by Government and other agencies to maximise engineering, technological and R and D input for the speedy growth of electronic industry in the framework of the five year plans.

Beports to Educate the People against Radiation Risks

2169. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) what are the names of the cities surrounding the Narora Atomic Plant;

(b) what efforts have been made by Government to educate the people on radiation risks to provide adequate information and training to civil administration of the surrounding areas besides providing adequate fir_e fighting equipment in the region to meet any eventuality; and

(cf what arrangements have been made for the disposal of the low, intermediate and high level radis active waste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECH NOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) There are no cities having a population of more than 1 lakh as per 1981 Census within 30 km radius around Narora Plant. Aligarh ig th_G nearest city at a radial distance of about 40 km from the plant.

(b) Steps have been taken by the Project authorities to educate villagera around Narora Atomic Power Plant (NAPP) and train district officials on radiation and emergency preparedness in case of accidents, contractors emp loyees hailing from the villages around NAPP have been trained in protec tion against radiation. Education of village Pradhans and Sarpanchg has been taken ^{U}P along with civil defence training and is being organised on a continuing basis. The plant is equip ped with adequate fire protection sys tems and equipment to meet any con tingencies apart from measures for presenting fire. The operation of the plant will not pose fire hazard in the public domain.

(c) The basic philosophy of radioac tive waste management is to concen trate and contain as much radio acti vity as possible and discharge only those streams that have activity far below the authorised limits which con firm to internationally accepted values. The operation of nuclear power plants produces mostly low and intermediate level wastes for which a waste management plant is provided at the Plan. Technology for treatment and disposal/storage of these wastes is already in use at va rious nuclear facilities meeting all stringent stipulations of environmental protection. Concentrated -wastes after immobilisation in cement are buried for safe leak tight containment within the plant boundary. High level